ABSTRACT

The invention is a system and method for managing data objects in a network or networks such that there may be at least n copies of the data object and each copy of the data object may be separated by at least a distance of d. In the event of a disaster and loss of a data object, there may be at least n-1 copies of the data object remaining at various sites in the network. Information relating to the identity of each data object and location may be maintained in a central server or distributed in a doubly linked structure, for example. Further, the data object may be copied to storage locations in proximity to requesting sites resulting in an increased number of copies of the data object. Less often or less recently accessed copies of the data object may be subsequently removed to return the number of copies to n. In another embodiment, data may be lost, thus reducing the number of copies to below "n". New copies are created and re-inserted into the network to maintain the minimum number of copies of the data object in the network separated by at least a distance of d.